Unusual behaviour in *Papilio ulysses* L., 1758 (Lep.: Papilionidae)

The process whereby butterflies obtain salts by probing damp sand or mud with their proboscis is well documented. In suitable places they may congregate in very large numbers, particularly (though not exclusively) in the tropics and the sight of a carpet of coloured wings shimmering in the sunshine on a mud bank is a memorable experience. Rotten meat, fish, urine and faeces are commonly used as bait to attract butterflies in the tropics and I well remember being involved (in an administrative capacity) in the filming of a "Wildlife on One" programme about Sulawesi some ten years ago. It was necessary to get a shot of butterflies "puddling" by the River Tumpah and this was effected by my urinating on the river bank an hour before filming was due!

Large *Papilio* species frequently "puddle", usually sitting on the ground with wings closed and proboscis extended. Unusual behaviour which, despite long periods in the tropics, I have never seen before, was recently observed in the Solomon Islands. On 15 September 1996, I was in the bar of the Mendana hotel in Honiara, Guadalcanal, which is open to the sea. A fresh male *Papilio ulysses* was seen flying slowly over the sea, several metres from the shore-line and parallel to it. On close examination, it was seen to have its proboscis extended, with the tip in the water, apparently imbiding sea-water. Some fluctuation in water level was caused by small waves lapping the shore and the butterfly skilfully avoided being swamped by flying and hovering just above the water, always keeping its probiscis in the water. It was observed for five full minutes, before it flew away – possibly disturbed by the close attention paid to it by myself and colleagues.

It is interesing that Charles Morris Woodford, a Naturalist who lived in the Solomon Islands and who became the first Resident Commissioner of the Territory in 1896, observed the attraction of salt water to *ulysses* and other swallowtails more than a century ago:

> "Perhaps you did not know that butterflies were fond of salt water. Yet look at that large black one with the swallowtails sitting on the wet sand only just clear of the water, and greedily imbiding the moisture through its long tongue. I pop the net carefully but quickly over him while he is still intent upon his draught. Black, did I say? Well, he looked black with his wings folded over his back, but the instant the net closed round him he showed his beautiful upperside of bright blue, with deep velvety black border. It is *Papilio orsippus* (the race on Guadalcanal is known as *Papilio ulysses orsippus* Godman & Salvin, 1888), one of the most beautiful insects of the Malayo-Australian region. This addiction to salt water is not confined to this species only, as I frequently catch other butterflies, chiefly *Papilios,* in the same position. Indeed, such strong and swift-flying things as *Papilio islander* (*Graphium sarpedon islander* Godman & Salvin, 1888) and

P. solon (*Graphium codrus gabriellae* Racheli, 1979) are more easily caught when thus intent upon a draught."
Charles Woodford.
A Naturalist among the Head-Hunters 1890, pp. 94-95.

– John Tennent, 1 Middlewood Close, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 4UD.

An additional record of the Scots Pine Wood Gnat *Mycetobia gemella* Mamaev (Dip.: Mycetobiidae).

Since the addition of *Mycetobia gemella* Mamaev to the British list (Hancock *et al.* 1996, *Dipterists Digest* **3**: 32-35) another two examples have been reared from larvae, found in May 1996, under the bark of a dead pine tree in Glen Affric, Inverness-shire. The tree had been blown down about three years previously, judging from the fact that the bark was beginning to loosen while retaining a strong resinous odour in the moist yellowish layer between it and the sap wood. This record constitutes a third British site, the others being Rothiemurchus and Abernethy, both slightly further south and east within Scotland. Abroad it is known from Norway, Denmark and European Russia. On the occasions on which this species has been reared it has always been from gymnosperms in a decayed condition and it is hypothesised that there is a possible obligatory biological link as yet undefined. Other Palaearctic members of the genus have been found under similar conditions but in association with deciduous (dicotyledonous) trees.

The Anisopodidae have been split in recent years by the creation of other families of which Mycetobiidae is the only other one with Palaearctic representatives. The Anisopodidae *sensu lato* are often referred to generically in British literature as window gnats, but by the term wood gnats in North America. Without wishing to enter into arguments about the standardisation of vernacular names, or even the desirability of them in generally unfamiliar insects, the habit of being associated with human habitation is limited to but one or two of the numerous world wide species and hence is not very appropriate for the group as a whole. However, the use of an "English" name for *M. gemella* in this short note title is intended to be purely descriptive.– E. Geoffrey Hancock, Glasgow Museums, Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG, Scotland.

***Nemapogon clematella* (Fabricius, 1781) (Lep.: Tineidae) larval habits**

In May 1995 I discovered evidence of lepidopterous larvae feeding on the fungus *Diatrype disciformis* growing on dead hazel *Corylus avellanus* wood. Affected hazels were characteristically old coppiced plants where some of the upright boughs had died and been infected with this fungus. *D. disciformis* produces small, hard, roundish, black pustules on the bark's surface. Phillips (1981, *Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and*